

**Amendments to the Claims:**

(withdrawn) Claim 1: A method of darkening the skin, said method comprising applying to said skin a polymer comprising monomers selected from the group consisting of vanillin monomers, o-vanillin monomers, and mixtures thereof.

(withdrawn) Claim 2: A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises monomers selected from the group consisting of 3-aminotyrosine, dihydroxy acetone, 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid, 3-amino, 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, emodin, alizarin, tyrosine, 4,5-dihydroxynaphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, 3-nitrotyrosine, 3-dimethylamino phenol, p-aminobenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

(withdrawn) Claim 3: A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises aloin monomers.

(withdrawn) Claim 4: A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

(withdrawn) Claim 5: A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises aloin monomers and dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

(withdrawn) Claim 6: A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer further comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, 9, 10-dihydroxystearic acid, linolenic acid, cholesterol, dihydroxycarbazole, and mixtures thereof.

(withdrawn) Claim 7: A method of claim 1, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

(withdrawn) Claim 8: A method of claim 2, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

(withdrawn) Claim 9: A method of claim 3, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

(withdrawn) Claim 10: A method of claim 5, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

Claim 11 (original): A polymer comprising (i) monomers selected from the group consisting of vanillin monomers, o-vanillin monomers, and mixtures thereof and (ii) monomers selected from the group consisting of 3-aminotyrosine, dihydroxy acetone, 3,4-dihydroxybenzoic acid, 3-amino, 4-hydroxybenzoic acid, aloin, emodin, alizarin, tyrosine, dihydroxyphenylalanine, 4,5-dihydroxynaphthalene-2-sulfonic acid, 3-nitrotyrosine, 3-dimethylamino phenol, p-aminobenzoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 12 (original): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises aloin monomers.

Claim 13 (original): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

Claim 14 (original): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer comprises aloin monomers and dihydroxyphenylalanine monomers.

Claim 15 (original): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer further comprises a moiety selected from the group consisting of linoleic acid, 9,10-dihydroxystearic acid, linolenic acid, cholesterol, dihydroxycarbazole, and mixtures thereof.

Claim 16 (original): A polymer of claim 11, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

Claim 17 (original): A polymer of claim 12, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

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Claim 18 (original): A polymer of claim 14, wherein said polymer has a molecular weight of from about 10 kd to about 50 10 kd.

Claim 19 (original): A composition comprising a polymer of claim 11 and cosmetically-acceptable topical carrier.

Claim 20 (original): A method of darkening the skin, said method comprising applying to said skin a composition of claim 19.